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**A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON**
**REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES**


*"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."*—Niels Bohr


**Editor-in-Chief:** J. Allen Hynek **Managing Editor:** Allan Hendry



HEAVILY– WITNESSED RADAR– VISUAL CASE NEAR KANSAS CITY

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THE SOCORRO LANDING: NEW WITNESSES?

13 UFOS SELECTED FROM 198 U.S. CASES: July 15 – Aug. 14

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# EDITORIAL

**by Dr. J. Allen Hynek**

For nearly two years we have, largely in the person of Allan Hendry and with extensive aid of the Bell Telephone System, spent a great deal of effort and time...and money...in carefully checking *every current* report that came to our attention, either through the 800 "hot line", through our regular number (312/491-6666) or by mail. We mean "carefully checked" too. If the stimulus for a report was evaluated as an advertising plane, it *was* an advertising plane. We got it straight from the ad plane company by phone that they had had their plane at the reported spot and at the exact time of the sighting (not just "sometime that evening"). And so on with the other IFO (Identified Flying Objects) evaluations. Sometimes up to an hour was spent on the phone in cases we were almost certain were IFOs but detailed questioning of the witnesses was necessary to nail down the evaluation.

Now at the present time we wonder whether we have reached the point of diminishing returns. We have clearly established to our satisfaction that, as a table in this issue shows, on the average 90% of the raw reports turn out to be IFOs. It was absolutely necessary to establish this by hard work and not guess work, but now that it has been done, the old adage about not "beating a dead horse" comes to mind. That is, 90% of our time was spent in tracking down the cause of reports that we were pretty sure, *on the basis of past experience,* were misidentifications of twinkling *stars, planets, ad planes, etc. Pretty* sure, but not certain. So, we made sure that we were certain!

It is still essential that we be confident of our IFO evaluations, but perhaps too much space has been devoted in this publication in detailing IFOs -- in presenting a monthly score. This publication is a UFO reporter, not an IFO reporter.

Henceforth, therefore, we shall present the overall results on IFOs,


(cont. on back page)


J. Allen Hynek

**AUSTRALIA:** Lake Sorell, Tasmania, August 5, 1978. A Hobart family of three adults and two teenagers watched a glow to the north of Tunbridge Road, behind a hill from their vantage point on the lake shore, at 9:50 PM. They could not see the source. Within minutes, the whole area was lit up and a small white light appeared in the same direction in the trees which moved back and forth. Twenty to thirty minutes later the light disappeared suddenly and the glow faded, but the glow briefly reappeared to the south. Earlier in the day, another group reported seeing a brown cigar-shaped object over adjacent Lake Crescent.
*SOURCE: Launceston Examiner, Aug. 12, 1978.*

**COLUMBIA:** between Tunja and Bogota, August, 1978. Bank manager Serrano Silva and a Navy officer suffered temporary paralysis when a flying object buzzed their car on a highway. The car's engine and headlights died.
*SOURCE: Brief Detroit News (AP) story, Nov. 14, 1978.*

**IRAN:** Tehran, July 16. Residents sleeping on their terraces in the north part of town spotted a "strange glowing object" floating towards Saveh. The control tower at Mehrabad Airport confirmed the existence of the light but offered no further details. An air crew reported unusual readings on their instruments. One eyewitness alone on his balcony watched the object suddenly emerge in the sky and hover directly over him. "I was so scared that I wanted to scream, but could not do so."

Tehran, April (date unspecified). A "similar" flying object was seen and photographed by a local airline pilot in the company of his co-pilot while flying between Ahvaz and Tehran at 24,000 feet. At the same time, a Mehrabad radar official said that he detected an object 20 times the size of a jumbo jet on their screens. Civil Aviation chief Haj Moniri called for an investigation; the pilot was not to release the photo until the Security Division of the Civil Aviation Authorities gave their permission.
*SOURCE: Tehran Journal, July 18, which noted that the more recent sighting was third noted in Iran in less than a year. Clipping courtesy Gene Lundholm.*

vicinity of Nakashibetsu; yet as the pilots flew through the moon-lit night, they couldn't find any sign of the target on their airborne screens. The 2 jets returned empty-handed but the radar image persisted on the ground scopes, moving southward toward Kushiro. Twice more, ground radars picked up the image at 11:23 PM and 12:45 AM and twice more the jets were scrambled. Whenever they approached, however, the images would vanish. Air Staff Supervision Authorities speculated about the prospects of a balloon from the Soviet Union or China.
*SOURCE: Jun-Ichi Takanashi, Modern Space Flight Association, Osaka.*

**NORWAY:** The *Norsk Opinions Institutt* conducted a survey of 1043 Norwegians this year on UFOs, asking the same questions used this year by the U.S. Gallup Poll for 1,560 Americans (see June, 1978 IUR). Their responses are shown below, with the U.S. responses shown for comparison:

1) "Have you heard about UFOs?" - Norway: 95%, U.S.: 93%
2) "Do you believe UFOs are real?" - Norway: 41%, U.S.: 57%
3) "Have you ever seen a UFO?" - Norway: 3%, U.S.: 9%
4) "Do you believe there are people like us on other planets?" - Norway: 30%, U.S.: 51%

# FOREIGN FORUM

This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings obtained from around the world. While we cannot exert the same degree of control over these cases as domestic ones, it is at least of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for the phenomenon abroad as in the U.S.

**ENGLAND:** Louth, Lincs, July 3, 1978. A Mrs. Jenkinson and a friend were playing tennis at 9 PM when they spotted a flat, silver oval in the sky reflecting the sunlight and moving in a straight line northbound from the western sky. Total duration: five minutes. A similar northbound object was later seen in the eastern sky.
*SOURCE: Northern UFO News, Sept. 1978.*

**IRAN:** Shiraz, May, 1978. A 16-year old student, Jamshid Sayadimour, shot this picture at 4 AM as he stayed up

late studying for exams in this southern Iranian City. The student claimed to have seen three more UFOs appear over the horizon one week later.
*SOURCE: Brief account in the London Evening Standard, June 27, 1978.*

**ITALY:** Clavarezza, May 10, 1978. Numerous people watched a moon-sized oval object in the clear evening sky with well-delineated edges, no trail or halo and intense white light. The strange glare held quietly stationary for three minutes in the direction of Mt. Preventino, high in the sky. Then the light began to pulsate for seven minutes and abruptly went out.
*SOURCE: "Echo of Genova and Leguria" newspaper, July 31, 1978.*

**JAPAN:** Hokkaido district, August 17, 1978. The Air Staff Supervision Authorities of Japan's Defense Department announced that at 10:30 PM, radars of the Air Self-Defense Corps Nemuro Radar Site picked up a UFO flying from the north to the SSW at about 40 m.p.h. at an altitude of from one half to one mile up over Nemuro Channel, south of Kuashiri Island. It approached the eastern end of Hokkaido and was later seen by radars at Erimo-miaki. Two F4EJ Phantom jets were scrambled from the Chitose Base about 10 minutes later and were guided to the radar targets then in the

**NEW ZEALAND:** East Coast Bays, April 2, 1978. Ms. Lee Robinson was driving on Sunset Rd. at 8:30 PM toward Henderson when she stopped her motorcycle to watch flashing lights approach her from the distance. She finally resolved a wedge-shaped form, broad at the front and narrow at the back, with two red lights, a green light and a glass front. It stopped 200 meters away from her, hovering; two figures in dark robes could be seen from waist up looking down at her. Ms. Robinson stared petrified for several minutes until a car approached and the wedge flew off. A check with the Whenupai Air Base yielded no other witnesses that night but Wade Corlett and Bruce Kidd claimed to have seen a similar shape two nights before.
*SOURCE: Auckland Star, April 3, 1978.*

## 13 UFOS SELECTED FROM 198 U.S. CASES: July 15 – Aug. 14

185 reports were judged to be identifiable or inappropriate.
Refer to the "Profile" feature for monthly evaluations.

# U.S. SIGHTINGS

**HOW WE LEARN OF UFO'S:** UFO reports are from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports stem from the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Central Hotline. This is a 24-hour, toll-free telephone service for the exclusive use of law enforcement agencies, FAA agencies, planetaria and other formal channels. This gives us the chance to follow up *all* cases rapidly for first-hand information with unlimited long-distance capability. Other advantages include screening of the hoaxers Indeed, police who patrol when others are asleep are encouraged to fill this void.

**HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S:** Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

**NL**—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky
**DD**—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day
**RV**—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

**CE I**—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet
**CE II**—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces
**CE III**—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

**HOW WE NUMBER CASES:** All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

## 1 — UFO of High Merit

*First, a comprehensive study of the UFO's reported characteristics, then the technical judgment necessary to satisfy our UFO definition.*

### HEAVILY-WITNESSED RADAR–VISUAL CASE NEAR KANSAS CITY

**CASE #3-9-163**

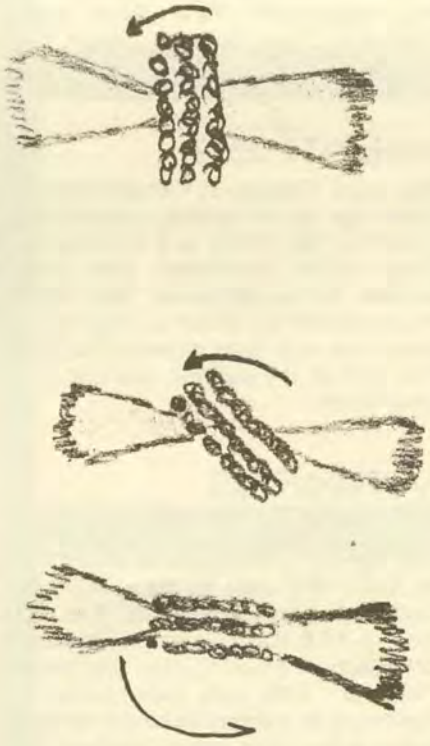
This UFO is certainly an unusual, dynamic one, putting on a show over Belton, MO that could be seen in three neighboring suburbs south of Kansas City, with dozens of witnesses reporting it independently to law enforcement agencies and the local Air Force base (who were *also* watching it). Thus, it is distinguished as the IUR case with the greatest number of witnesses. It also appears to have been seen briefly on radar. If this event was based on a hoax, it would be unprecedentedly elaborate.

## ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Tuesday, August 8, 1978.
STARTING TIME: 9:40 PM
PLACE: Belton, Missouri, east of Richard Gebaur Air Force Base, a largely residential area in a suburban city about 15 miles south of downtown Kansas City.

## APPEARANCE

Most of the witnesses indicated that they saw a large red light dropping "flares". One individual, Mr. Joseph Staudinger, Jr., was fortunate enough to have been directly underneath the UFO and provided the sketches seen above. Note that the rows of red lights were rotating like a turntable, while the white strobe lights beaming in front of and behind the object remained fixed in the direction of travel. When overhead, Staudinger saw the object as large-looking as a full moon (½-degree of arc); coupled with the elevation (estimated from triangulation) of 2800 feet, this provides a *rough* overall size of 25 feet. Binoculars at the Air Force base revealed a faint white blinking light unseen by the tower witnesses with the naked eye accompanying the red lights.



*Witness sketch of UFO*

## MOTION

Two particularly articulate reports enable us at this stage to triangulate the location and height of the object throughout its trajectory. One viewpoint comes from Sgt. Gary Havens at the Air Force base air tower; the other is provided by Mr. Joseph Staudinger, also formerly in the Air Force, who saw the UFO fly directly over his house on Park Drive (a north-south street) and parallel to the street. His house is two miles SE of the tower at the base. Key points of discussion are numbered below on the map and discussed (all times are approximate, based on interpolations between known endpoints):

1) *9:40 PM:* Staudinger, his wife, his 14-year old son and his neighbors (who notified the Air Force base) watched the object come from the south over the tree line.
2) *9:42 PM:* UFO passed virtually overhead on Park Drive. This is the point where the tower at Richard Gebaur first took note of it, about 15 to 20° up. This triangulates to a height of about 2800 feet. No noise was

heard.

3) *9:47 PM:* The object stopped here, according to both witnesses. For the Air Force base witnesses, it was now due east about 15° up. For the Park Drive witnesses, it was due north, about 15 degrees up. This works out to 2000 feet, adopting the elevation angles literally. The UFO flew at roughly a level altitude, then, taking about five minutes to travel from the Staudinger house to a position 1.4 miles north of it. This works out to a speed of 17 m.p.h. -- more like a balloon than a plane, or possibly a helicopter. Sgt. Havens estimated the distance now to be 3/4 to 1½ miles away...an excellent guess, since the UFO works out to a distance of 1.4 miles from the tower. Another individual, on the base, standing about two blocks due east of the tower, also confirmed the "due east" position for the UFO once it had stopped. Since the base has no radar of its own, Havens called Kansas City International Airport, over 30 miles north of the action, to see if they could track "anything east of the base". Controller Hal Roberts confirmed that they could, but that it was intermittent, appearing as a non-transponding target only 7 or 8 sweeps out of 30. Interestingly, Havens did not clue Roberts at KCI how far he should look; yet when Allan Hendry called Roberts directly and asked how far the target was from the small painted line indicating the runway at Richard Gebaur, he told us "one and one-half miles", which corresponds perfectly to the now-triangulated position.

It was here in the ten-minute hovering position that the UFO performed its spookiest stunt, seen by virtually everyone with whom we spoke: it dropped a red/orange flare down toward the ground. Everyone agreed, however, that the flare could be seen fizzling out before it hit the ground. Prior to this, a white flash of light was seen by both Havens and Staudinger. It looked like it had occured beneath the red lights through binoculars (as seen from the tower). The Park Drive witnesses actually heard a loud "pop" or "crack" sound accompanying the flash. The tower witnesses didn't hear the noise, but an airman named Lucas near the main gate of the base did; in fact, he reported several such "explosions".

4) *10:00 PM:* Now the object rose straight up, as seen from both vantage points. This was a slow process, taking 15 to 20 minutes. From the tower, the red lights were seen to disappear suddenly at what was guessed to be an increase in altitude of 4000 feet. Another good guess, according to the triangulations: using their elevation angle of 45° as a more accurate guage of height, the height of the object was equal to the original distance: about 1.4 miles. Although the red lights could no longer be seen with the naked eye, the use of binoculars continued to reveal the dim flashing white light. Havens watched it move southbound now for "about a quarter mile". It then turned abruptly northbound again still at a slow speed. Then it drifted ESE, climbing to a higher altitude at an estimated speed greater than 200 knots, at position (5) at 10:23 PM.

Meanwhile, back at Park Drive, the rising, levelling off, north-south "glitch" and ESE departure were all seen as a straight trajectory that extended up to 15° east of their zenith (overhead). This is much further along its trajectory for the red lights to disappear than was seen from the side view of the Air Force tower, but then the Park Drive witnesses *were* underneath it (at position (6)).

Incidentally, once the UFO started rising up, Havens called Roberts at the Kansas City airport again, but that controller saw nothing on his radar screen now -- a disappointment.

All of the above figures are subject to error, of course, as they are based on the elevation angle estimates. That the UFO's flight path was aligned with the north-south Park Drive was fortunate. Total Duration: about 45 minutes.

## WEATHER

The tower witnesses at Richard Gebaur noted the sky to be clear, with winds from the SSE (170°) at 3 to 6 knots. These wind conditions were not variable during the event. Note that the motion of the object is, thus, fairly consistent with wind direction for the first half of the sighting, but not the second half.

## WITNESS REACTION

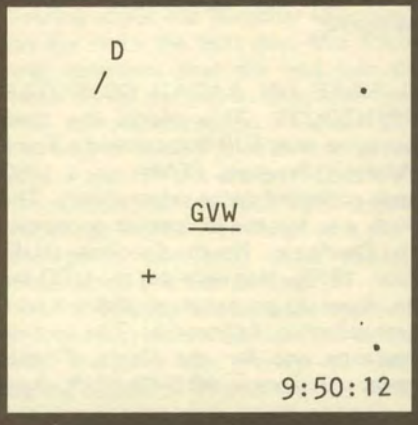
The sighting is distinguished among all of IUR's UFO cases by the number of individual witnesses involved. Richard Gebaur AFB had numerous witnesses on their own property; they also were "flooded" with calls from civilians. According to a detective on the Belton police force, their agency received 20 calls. Reportedly, neighboring Grandview and Kansas City police departments also received calls. There's no question that *something* was in the sky over Belton that night. Nor can it be claimed that press attention generated a lot of false sightings, since the case miraculously escaped the attention of the local news media (who normally watch police blotters like a hawk). In IUR's experience, a huge turnout of independent witnesses for a sighting usually foretells a ready commonplace explanation (e.g., meteors, ad planes and other conspicuous IFOs), but what could this one be? Sgt. Gary Havens, an air traffic controller with nine years of experience said it was "something like I've never seen before." IUR is still in the process of coordinating the many witnesses to the event; any new information will appear in a future issue. Obviously, in a case like this, the routine "suspicions" normally applied to reporting witnesses can be relaxed considerably.

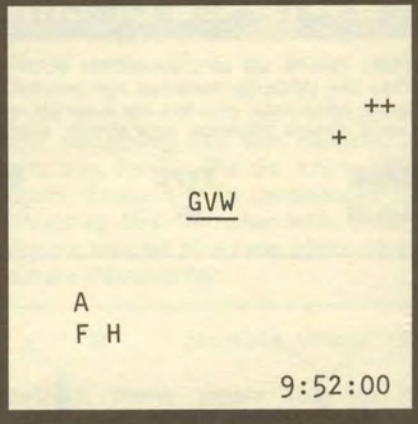
## ON THE CASE

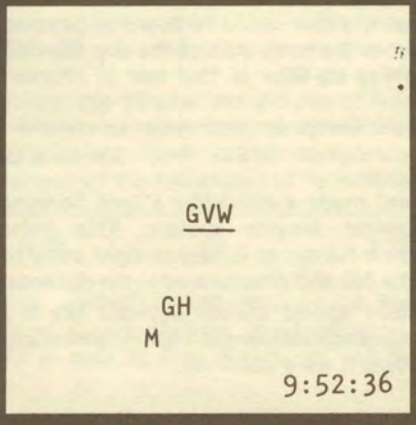
Original source: direct call from Richard Gebaur Air Force Base security police to the Center for UFO Studies' Hotline. Comprehensive interviews were conducted with the principal witnesses discussed here within 24 hours of the event by Allan Hendry. More witnesses are still being contacted, but so far, most of them have not watched the object as completely or carefully as the witnesses mentioned. They do all note a large red light "making explosions" or dropping "red lights".

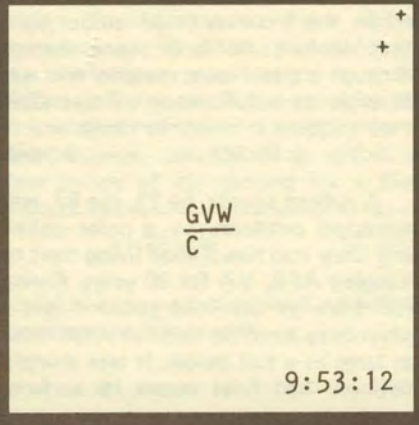
The large number of independent witnesses precluded the need to conduct routine searches for more; there is no question in this particular case that *something* was there. In an effort to probe the nature of the target a little further, IUR obtained the cooperation of the FAA's Air Route Traffic Control Center in Olathe, KS in securing a computer printout of all of the radar targets in that vicinity, both "raw" and transponder-equipped, for the duration of the event. Several time frames are shown here, restricted in area to the vicinity of Richard Gebaur Air Force Base. Targets that have been assigned letter codes are aircraft with transponders; a separate chart shows their transponder frequencies and altitudes. The Air Force Base is coded as "GVW". Targets without transponders (including light aircraft, "false" targets and - presumably - UFOs) are depicted as periods (.) and plus signs (+). Plus signs are more solid targets. Now halfway through the event, a C-130 made an approach to the base from 10 miles to the south. When the pilot approached to within 3 miles, he was asked if he could see the UFO visually. He could, but he was reluctant to get anywhere near "the explosions". Havens recalled that he cut due west of the base one mile, cut to the south for three miles and turned northbound again to land

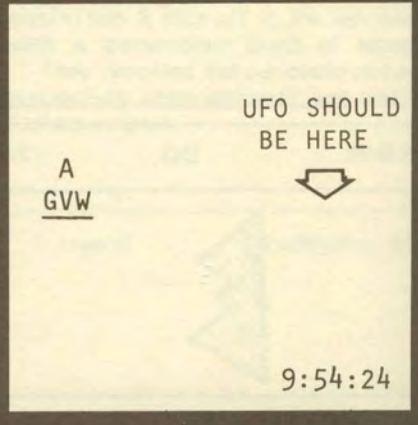
THERE'S THE C-130, BUT WHERE'S THE UFO? Allan Hendry is seen studying a computer printout of all radar targets in the Belton area, provided by the FAA. Small 2½ - mile sections of the area in question are reproduced below. The letters GVW indicate the position of the Gebaur Air Force Base. The cluster of letters (primarily "A") surround the counter-clockwise flight of the C-130 landing at the Air Force base. A non-transponding target(s) is seen moving NNE, too, but the UFO, which should appear in the position shown by arrow in the last frame, fails to appear in any of the frames we examined.





at the base. These maneuvers show up clearly on the printout. Another non-transponding target can also be seen flying NNE through the area, but where is the UFO? It should appear as a dot or a plus sign to the right of the "GVW" where the tower is; in the period where it is hovering and rising straight up, it should be about 1½" away. One frame with a good fit doth not a radar match make, especially when ground clutter "dots" keep popping up sporadically. Not that it *should* appear constantly, since ARTCC controllers claim at best a 50% success rate in receiving "raw" radar returns (without the aid of a transponder). It's possible that we are being told something here about the nature of the object's tenuousness when the radar returns from it are so sporadic.

A NOTE ON RADAR COMPUTER PRINTOUTS: This marks the third occasion that IUR has secured a Track Analysis Program (TAP) on a UFO that promised radar returnability. The first was for the helicopter encounter in Charlotte, North Carolina (IUR, Mar. 1978). Not only did the UFO fail to show up on radar, so did the non-transponding helicopter! The second instance was for the Ocala, Florida radar-visual case #3-6-40 (IUR, June 1978); this one is still being examined. While there is a possible target executing a hairpin reversal of motion, we still need better time estimates from the witnesses to establish that it isn't just a coincidental "false" target (there are many on this printout).

## ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS

**ASTRONOMY, METEOROLOGY:** No interpretation is possible.

**AERONAUTICS:** The sketch of the rows of red lights immediately brings to mind our old friend, the advertising plane. Indeed, one was in the area two hours previous to the sightings. The kind of rotation, the flashes, pops, and dropping flares, the flight path and the failure to appear on radar when other low-flying planes (like the C-130 with a computer-indicated altitude of 1200 feet) *did* show up serve to rule this out.

**SOCIOLOGY:** Remarkably, no press attention was given to this case in the local news media at all. There can be no claim, then, that all of the witnesses were simply jumping on a "UFOlogical bandwagon". The consistency from story to story is also quite exceptional.

## CONCLUSIONS

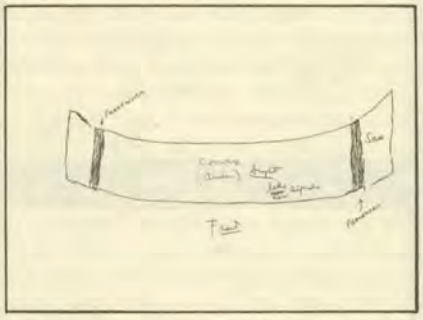
That an undeniably mysterious object was seen over the skies of Belton, Missouri appears to be undeniable. A truly anomalous UFO? For once, there seems to be only one other credible alternative: a truly bizarre prank balloon, constructed in a way that would suggest a slowly-rotating rectangular array of red lights! This would account for the slow speed, the initial conformance to wind direction, the characteristic "dropping burning material", and the tenuous radar returns. For this to work out, though, the windborne propulsion of the balloon would have to stop abruptly for an extended period and the balloon would have to lose ballast (the dropping material?) to rise; then the winds aloft (1½ miles up) would have to be directly opposite those measured on the ground (perfectly possible), shift suddenly indirection and resume southward again. Contrived sounding? What about the blinking white light? Unless the remains of some hoax are discovered, or pranksters confess to some ingenious contraption, a conclusion of "true anomaly" will be one of two "economical" solutions in this case.

## 2—UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated reasons (distance, poor details, single witness, etc.) they are not worthy of the closest scrutiny. Names of witnesses in this category are generally withheld unless the news media have already revealled them.

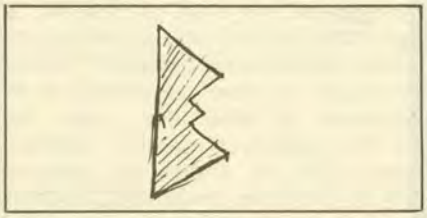
NOTE: UFOs and IFOs alike can fail to appear on radar for a wide variety of technical reasons.

| CASE | TYPE | DATE | TIME | DURATION | WITNESSES | PLACE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3-9-19 | NL | 7-19-78 | 9:30-10 PM | 2-3 min. | 4 | Hudson, NY |



A 35-year old teacher was driving through this suburban area in the company of his wife, a 28-year old nurse, when they spotted this uniformly-illuminated form against a clear dark sky. The couple stopped the car to confirm that it really was motionless in the sky. It looked rounded in the front with an amber light that looked as if it were shining through a translucent material and was as wide as a full moon. The couple guessed it was really as large as a football field. No noise was heard. They resumed driving, occasionally losing sight of the broad light source behind trees. Arriving at a friend's house on the same road, they joined another couple to watch it but the lights suddenly went out. Thirty seconds later, a roar could be heard originating from the same part of the sky, moving off to the SE.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3-9-28 | DD | 7-22-78 | 1:15 PM | 2-3 min. | 6 | Ventura, CA |



A retired couple, he 71, she 67, was attracted outdoors by a noise unlike any they had heard after living next to Langley AFB, VA for 30 years. Flying NE from an overhead position was a silver/grey form (as reconstructed here) as large as a full moon. It was sharply defined, had lines across its surface, and made a noise like a card flapping against bicycle spokes. This noise grew fainter as it flew straight away to the NE and disappeared in the distance.

Seen against a clear daylight sky in a suburban residential area; no additional reports were obtained.

| 3-9-59 | CEII? | 7-27-78 | 12:45 AM | "seconds" | 1 | Union, MO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Mrs. Clora Winscher, a 35-year old housewife, was driving alone eastbound on Highway 50 (approaching Hwy 47) on the eastern edge of this small town. A thunderstorm had passed through earlier in the evening. Suddenly she felt the impact of a "terrific shove" from behind and felt the rear end of her '74 Mercury Comet being lifted up into the air. Turning around to look (assuming she would see a truck pushing her along), she saw only a "brilliance" that extended across the upper third of her rear window and was rising. The car continued to be shoved along the road for several seconds (or about 300 feet), completely out of her control; she could neither turn nor stop. Then as she approached a bridge, her car was abruptly dropped down again. Mrs. Winscher immediately pulled off of the road and jumped out...but nothing causing the collision could be seen in any direction. No sound was ever heard although her window was open three inches.

No additional witnesses. Mrs. Winscher, terrified, reported the incident to law enforcement authorities in Arnold, MO. Union Police Chief, Don Fowler, described Mrs. Winscher as a "very sincere mature individual". When her car was examined for damage, two dents were found in the upper edge of the trunk, a structurally-reinforced area of the vehicle (see photo). According to Leo Wicklinski of the St. Louis UFO Study Group, examination of the dents under a powerful magnifying glass revealed no fracture of the paint; the metal seemed "stretched" into place.

Wicklinski has speculated that a UFO had attempted to lift the car completely off of the ground and abduct Mrs. Winscher, Mercury and all. With a bridge looming in the distance, he suggested that the half-successful attempt to lift the car was aborted. Strictly speaking, the actual presence of a discrete UFO at all in this case is open to question. Yet the dents (if truly linked to the event) certainly suggest "physicality". Furthermore, at the same time that night a dozen miles to the west, another 67-year old housewife, Velma Clines of Beaufort, watched a dull red/orange round shape fly toward her house from low in the east. It looked no larger than a distant plane, but before it reached her it cut to the south and was gone in a minute in the tall trees. One minute later, the same thing happened all over again. On hearing about the Winscher experience on the radio the next day, Mrs. Clines was confident that she had seen the same thing, coming as they did from the correct direction. Earlier that evening, at 9:45 PM, the wife of the mayor also felt she saw a UFO, but the description she provided IUR seemed indistinguishable from that of a plane and posed and even more tenuous "match" to the "car-jacking".

Mrs. Winscher's reaction? Happening as it did just after a death in the family, Mrs. Winscher was greatly distressed by the incident. "If they wanted something, why didn't they tell me?" Since she can't reach "them" *now,* she has experienced a feeling of loss. Her pastor doesn't know, she said, if he "feels sorry (for) or envies me". According to the witness, "if you think you (mankind) are the greatest, and something like this happens, it hits you hard". The St. Louis UFO Study Group is to be commended for providing Mrs. Winscher with needed sincere counsel at a time when others simply ridiculed her.

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| 3-9-65 | CEII | 7-27-78 | 10:45 PM | 15 min. | 3 | Sheffield Village, OH |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

A "silver banana" with a red and blue flashing light was spotted low in the east moving forward, backwards, up and down, about a half-mile away. The 29-year old saleswoman present thought it was half as wide as a full moon; the 12-year old girl placed it as 1½ times as wide. Still, all agreed that it was too dark to be completely certain of the full extent of its outline. A wavering hum could be heard. It approached them as close as a ridge of trees across the street (about 600 feet away) at which point there was a complete electrical failure of their car. As the oldest witness got out, it followed the curved line of trees until it was north of them. It stopped for a few seconds, descended to within a few inches of the ground for a few seconds more, slowly rose to its original height, stopped and followed the ridge the rest of the way to the west. Then it shot off to the low west with a tremendous burst of speed.

*They reported the car could not be successfully restarted until one and a half hours later.*

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| 3-9-66 | NL | 7-28-78 | 11:45 PM | 15 min. | several | Ludington, MI |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

This well-publicized account of the Coast Guard stations in Ludington, MI as well as Two Rivers, WI will be detailed in an upcoming issue, including government documents.

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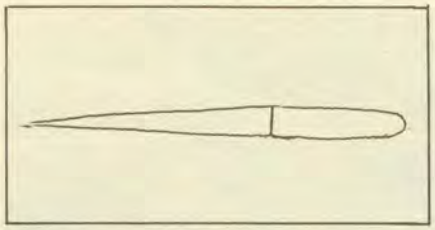
3-9-68 DD 7-27-78 7:45 PM 3 min. 3 Marshall, MI



A 43-year old industrial designer was flying a radio-controlled model plane in a large field with two other men when they spotted this silver object against a clear, still-sunny sky. The "fuselage without wings" had black lines across its surface (more than the witness sketch here shows), was distinctly outlined, equalled the moon in length and made no noise. As it moved eastward from a position directly overhead, the oldest witness took control of the model plane while the other two witnesses continued watching. Moving rounded end first, the "sliver" made it to a position 45 degrees up in the east and abruptly vanished from sight.

*With a low sun on the horizon, the description can be made to fit that of a jet contrail, but the witnesses were convinced it was a solid object.*

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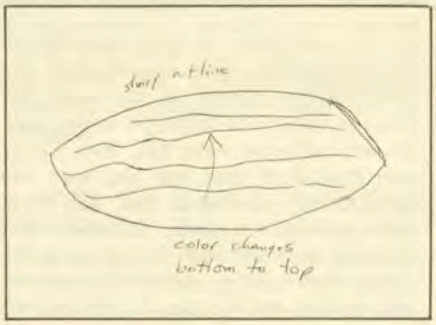
3-9-104 NL 8-3-78 10:50 PM 5 min. 2 Lowell, IN




A 34-year old resident and his wife watched a distinctly-outlined oval form of light with rising bands of shifting colors (red, orange, green, etc.) hovering very low over trees to the NW of their home. The angular size was judged to be as large as 5 degrees (or half your fist held at arm's length), but this was uncertain. As the form appeared to be hovering stationary and silently about a block or two away, the husband ran out to the car and tried to drive over to that area, but the object was gone by the time he made it there. Meanwhile, his wife stayed behind to watch it from the porch. She saw a second light form, smaller in size, appear to the first one's right. Next, a third one appeared to the left and in a second or two had swung over the top of the first light to the position of the second which promptly disappeared and seemingly reappeared off further to the left. Then all of the lights vanished.

*This sighting was the best of a great number presented to Allan Hendry and researcher Larry Neely who were present in Lowell to investigate an apparent "mini-flap". Other sighting descriptions generally pointed to the frequent occurence of oddly-behaving orange lights, yet many more clearly indicated Venus and aircraft lights. Most important of all was the atmosphere that developed around this "flap": small groups of adults and children alike went out at night with the express purpose of looking for UFOs. One boy had a running log of "sightings" that occurred practically every three nights for three months! The local paper provided repeated coverage of such sightings. While this case stood out beyond any other originating from that area in those three months, the unusual social context may be significant.*

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3-9-107 CEI 8-4-78 9:30-10 PM 20 sec. 1 E. Leroy, MI

Attracted by a noise like something falling, a 12-year old boy looked outside his bedroom window to watch a silver metallic "cigar" drop downward (vertically oriented) to a position about 100 feet away and 15 feet up. Here it "snapped" into a horizontal position and hovered briefly, for 5 - 10 seconds. A white steam-like exhaust that rushed from a funnel at the end of the body, died down in output, but it still steamed up the boy's window. Finally, it rushed off in a blur into the clear sky. Sounds coming from the object were described by the witness as "pffft" and "whoo-whoo" (!).

*No additional reports; this is a rural area with the witness's house located on 4 acres. The boy is clearly interested in the UFO subject and reads a number of magazines, yet he hasn't even told his parents about the incident. The only neighbor within view was at work at the time of the event. NOTE: Another UFO that steamed up a witness' window in our direct investigatory experience also took place in Michigan only 15 miles away from this event. It occurred on 8-27-76 in Portage, MI but was described as bell shaped by that adult witness.*

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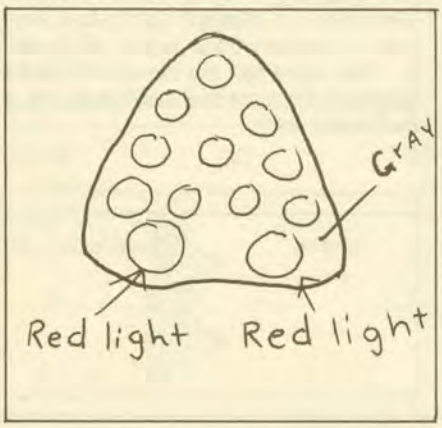
3-9-120 CEI 8-5-78 11:15 PM 3 min. 2 Laurie, MO




Having left a rodeo early, a 40-year old TV director was driving NW on Hwy. 5 about 2 miles SE of Laurie through a heavily-wooded area. His daughter was asleep, but he and his son, 11, watched two red lights rise up from about 25 feet off the road to their left to an altitude of 30 feet above the ground. The son watched the triangular shape fly over the car to their right, cut back to the top of the hill they were driving down, turn around and approach them again, only to descend behind the trees. The father accelerated the car away. Only he heard a faint whirling noise like a small motor; his son didn't. That the father saw two square 5" red lights only as it rose like "molded chunks of glass" suggested to him that he saw it from the rear as it rose. His son drew the sketch of the shape (shown here) which depicts two red lights on the underside. The rear dimension of the shape was guessed to be 10-12 feet across.

*No additional reports were made to the local sheriff department. The low-altitude behavior of the object precluded a meaningful radar search. Something that puzzled the father a great deal: neither he nor his son*

*initiated any conversation about the event until they both watched a "Project UFO" TV show the next day, despite the father's strong reaction ("Goddamn, look at that!") at the time it happened.*

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3-9-132 NL 8-7-78 10 PM 10-13 min. 2+ Peoria, IL

A couple in their 'fifties, driving westbound toward the First Assembly of God on War Memorial Drive, watched what looked like a "shooting star" fly across their view and "behind" the distant church. Five or six minutes later, they arrived at the church and, walking behind it, saw a bright white light with a flashing red light "in front" and a flashing blue light "trailing behind" to the rear. This hovered motionlessly 40° up in the NE for five to seven minutes. It was assumed to be a helicopter until it was seen to shoot off to the right (east) in a split-second, similar to their original observation. They could not follow its motion for any length, though.

About an hour earlier, the couple's 29-year old daughter-in-law was driving within a mile of the church on that same road. She said she was being paced by a bright flashing whitelight flanked by two steady white lights for a few minutes. Then it turned toward her and flew across the road above her. It was much larger in angular size at that point, much larger-looking than a full moon; yet while she couldn't resolve its shape, she could see "hollow spokes" converging to the center light and could hear a "science-fiction whirring" sound. Both events took place against a clear dark sky. News of the incident was relayed by local police, but no other witnesses were forthcoming from downtown Peoria. The helicopter theory, obviously won't hold if The "split-second shoot off" is valid.

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3-9-184 CEI 8-11-78 11:59 PM 3 min. 5 Great Mills, MD

A 38-year old female deputy sheriff and four youngsters, driving back from a ballgame benefit, on Chancellors Run Road, spotted a vaguely defined, silvery, blimp-shaped light form. It was hovering just above treetop level over some trailers and had red glows toward the bottom. From their position, the form appeared many times larger than a full moon to their NE. The woman shone the cruiser's powerful spotlight toward it and scanned the length of the form, fully confident that she was close enough to light it up; yet the beam had no effect on the large shape. She moved in closer toward the hovering UFO, but it began to get "cloudy" on its underside, and started moving slowly down behind the trees. As the witnesses drove home, the kids said they could see "it" (i.e., a red light) again; the deputy turned around and saw it as well, but was "gone" instantly over a field 1½ miles away.

*No additional reports. The witness described herself as formerly indifferent about the UFO subject and not a reader of the UFO literature. Interestingly enough, then, she returned to the area in search of possible physical traces...none were found. To rule out the possibility of a window reflection, the deputy stuck her head out of the side window, and she still saw it.*

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3-9-187 CEI 8-12-78 9:25 PM 2½ sec. 2 Niceville, FL

IUR SKETCH

A 21-year old student of English was en route to a romantic spot off a dirt road in this rural section of Florida near Eglin Air Force Base reservation with his 17-year old girlfriend. In the eastern sky before them was a light that flew left-to-right " 6 to 8 inches on the windshield". Suddenly, the light rushed down at the car, revealling the source to be an "eye"-like form as shown. The central "cornea" was like shiny black glass and the "body" was metallic silver. Note the two antennae. The object filled half the windshield in angular size just as it appeared to rush over the roof of the slow-moving car. The girl's reaction was to duck, as if the car was about to be hit. Yet as close as the object seemed to be to the car and, as fast as it was moving, no noise or wind or disturbance of the trees was noted (windows in the car were all closed, and the engine and radio were on, however).

*In 2½ seconds, what are the chances that the couple simply watched a meteoric "bolide" flaring up and confused its increase in angular size for decreasing distance? Especially in the absence of sound? Still, the girl was so badly shaken by the experience that her parents considered taking her to the hospital. Indeed, three hours after the event, she couldn't control a pen well enough to sketch what she saw. Nothing unusual was noted by Eglin AFB or the local airport. No additional reports were available.*

## 3- IDENTIFIED "IFO" HIGHLIGHTS

• There were nothing short of three incidents of fungal "slime mold" rings reported to us in this 30-day period alone; in all three episodes, no UFO sighting was claimed. One slime mold ring reported by the state police in Frankfort, KY was 4 inches wide and 8 to 10 feet in diameter. Another in Owen County, IN was 12 to 15 feet in diameter. The third was discovered in St. Louis, MO. Photographs and further discussion of this type of widespread "physical trace" imposter can be found in the Sept. 1977 IUR.

• The close positioning of Venus and the crescent moon on Aug. 7 resulted in 20 calls to our UFO Hotline from around the nation.

• One report from outside Elm Grove, LA on Aug. 6 sounded very provocative at first. Two teenagers stepped outside during a power failure at 12:30 AM and watched a beam of light rise from the trees beyond a half-mile stretch of soybean field. Suddenly, a dome-shaped form of light rose above the trees, varying in intensity. As it got dim, the electric power available to the witnesses' house seemed to increase; when the "UFO" brightened, their house lights simultaneously dimmed. Three loud noises like "sonic booms" were heard. When the power returned 1½ hours later and the UFO disappeared, the witnesses returned indoors.

The next day, one of the witnesses, a 17-year old girl, went in search of a possible physical trace

(having read of them in the past). Walking out through the waist-high, dark green, soybeans, she found a 15-foot circular area where the soybeans were light in color and lost their leaves.

Was this a case of a noisy UFO with EM effects and a physical trace? Not after Rural Electric acknowledged that a raccoon (found dead) had shorted out an electric sub-station, causing three transformers to blow (the three "sonic booms"), a huge electric arc and fire (the UFO light form) and the power interruption. The witness concluded that the soybean "trace" was unrelated to the episode. All of which serves only to underscore the premium IUR places on physical traces that are *directly observed* to be intimately related with a given UFO.

• Another sighting that began spectacularly was reported by two 30-year old housewives from California who were driving on I-80 near Evanston, WY in the early morning hours of July 23. The women described six hours of bizarre events as seen from their parked car:

- the highway turned into a runway with strobe lights
- the orange glow of a huge "ship" could be seen in the distance
- a loop of P.I.E. (Pacific Intercoastal Express) trucks were driving along the highway/runway presumably feeding supplies to the "ship". When they drove off into the distance, the trucks would lift up into the air and fly off!
- the women talked with a truck driver whom they assumed to be extraterrestrial. They also met a man with extremely long arms who had a dog with glowing triangular eyes, and so on, and so on. Both women emphatically stressed to Allan Hendry, that the incident actually happened to them; yet what was not revealed until they spoke with Dr. Alvin Lawson and Dr. William McCall in California was that they had undergone *36 hours* of sleep deprivation on amphetamines in order to drive cross-country from the south. Couple this with the parallels Dr. Lawson has recently drawn between some UFO claims and hallucination studies, and there is no way that one could feel confident that the "event" does not simply conform to the type of hallucinatory experiences commonly reported under similar stretches without sleep...even without the drugs.

## CALIFORNIA POLICEMAN BURNED BY UFO

The story of Officer Manuel Amparano of the Kerman, California police department is one that took place months ago on May 13,1978. IUR was aware of the incident at that time, but could not gain access to sufficient information about it as the officer's superior, Chief James Van Cleaf, elected to withhold most of it, for uncertain reasons. Amparano deferred to his boss and would talk with neither press nor UFO researchers. The first break in the case occurred when the June 27th issue of the *National Star* disclosed Amparano's name and ran a brief (and occasionally inaccurate) account of the event. Amparano expressed anger that the material had been published at that point; indeed, when he refused to let the Star photographer take his picture, the photographer used a telephoto lens to shoot him when he was in his garage in his undershirt, washing his car!

The picture in Kerman has changed now, however. A new police chief, Bill McKinny has expressed willingness to submit all details, including the names of possible additional witnesses and records of Amparano's medical examinations. In the meantime, Amparano has provided us with a first-hand account of the unusual event.

Amparano was on Delnorte Ave. on the southwest out-skirts of Kerman at 3:32 AM. when he observed a reddish glow ahead of him. Thinking it was a fire, he drove to the site and pulled off the road by a cottonfield near railroad tracks in time to see an unusual source of illumination about 45 degrees up in the southern sky. The source looked like a horizontally-oriented oval, twice as wide as it was high; it was crimson red in color, half as large looking as a full moon and uniformly illuminated. It was bright, but the intensity did not hurt the policeman's eyes. As it hovered motionlessly and silently, Amparano watched it out his open side window (his car pointing toward the southwest) for about four minutes. Suddenly the light source momentarily shot out a beam of blue light, like a camera flash. The mysterious object then receded toward the southeast and cut straight up out of sight into the clear dark sky in seconds.

As Amparano drove back to the station, he was aware of a tingling sensation in his body but dismissed it as being due to the "cold night air". It wasn't until he met five other witnesses and a chaplain back at the station that he learned he was "sunburned" as red as a lobster. The effect lasted for four hours before fading down. At 7 PM on the same date, the officer went to the Fresno Community Hospital for treatment of third-degree burns on his arms, face and neck. Here is what is known about the physiological effects of the encounter thus far, based on Amparano's recollections:

• Amparano was burned right through a long-sleeve, dark blue uniform
• The burns only occurred on the portions of his body facing the light through the open window (not through the windshield as reported in the Star). He was not burned where

the metal door shielded him from the light. His back was normal.

- The redness died down after four hours, but the burns remained visible for two days. The day after the encounter, white "fever blisters" popped up on his face and the front of his arms; these lasted for a week.
- The officer suffered a burning sensation "under" his skin for a week. At home, his body hurt badly, especially his groin. His wife told him he twitched in his sleep.
- Amparano claims that the hospital found his blood pressure to be high, something that had never happened to him before. He said that other tests were performed and codeine tablets were prescribed.
- Amparano said that two doctors felt the burns were caused by some form of microwave radiation. The symptoms certainly seem to point in that direction. IUR hopes that the medical records will shed more light on the physiological effect in a definitive way; only time will tell.

Contrary to published accounts in the press, Amparano did not personally apply for worker's compensation for injuries "caused by a UFO". In California, at least, an employer applies for the compensation on behalf of the employee. Also, the cause of the burns was listed as being of undetermined origin.

Is the officer's account credible? Amparano, a 32-year old Mexican-American, has been an officer for five years on Kerman's ten-man police force. His colleagues regard him as a reliable individual. He spent four years in the Marines and was on combat duty in Vietnam. He took pains to avoid publicity about the event, informing IUR that he would "just as soon forget the whole thing", that disclosing it is "more trouble than it's worth".

There is also the potential for additional witness corroboration in this case, as fourteen people called the station to report sightings that night.

Followup at the time of the event included calls to the airport at Fresno, who saw nothing on radar and had no planes going southeasterly at the time, Sgt. Holmes at the Air National Guard made similar comments, Vandenburg Air Force Base had no rocket launches, and local meteorologists launched no illuminated balloons at the time.

We will present part two of the Kerman case when additional file material is available from Kerman's police chief.

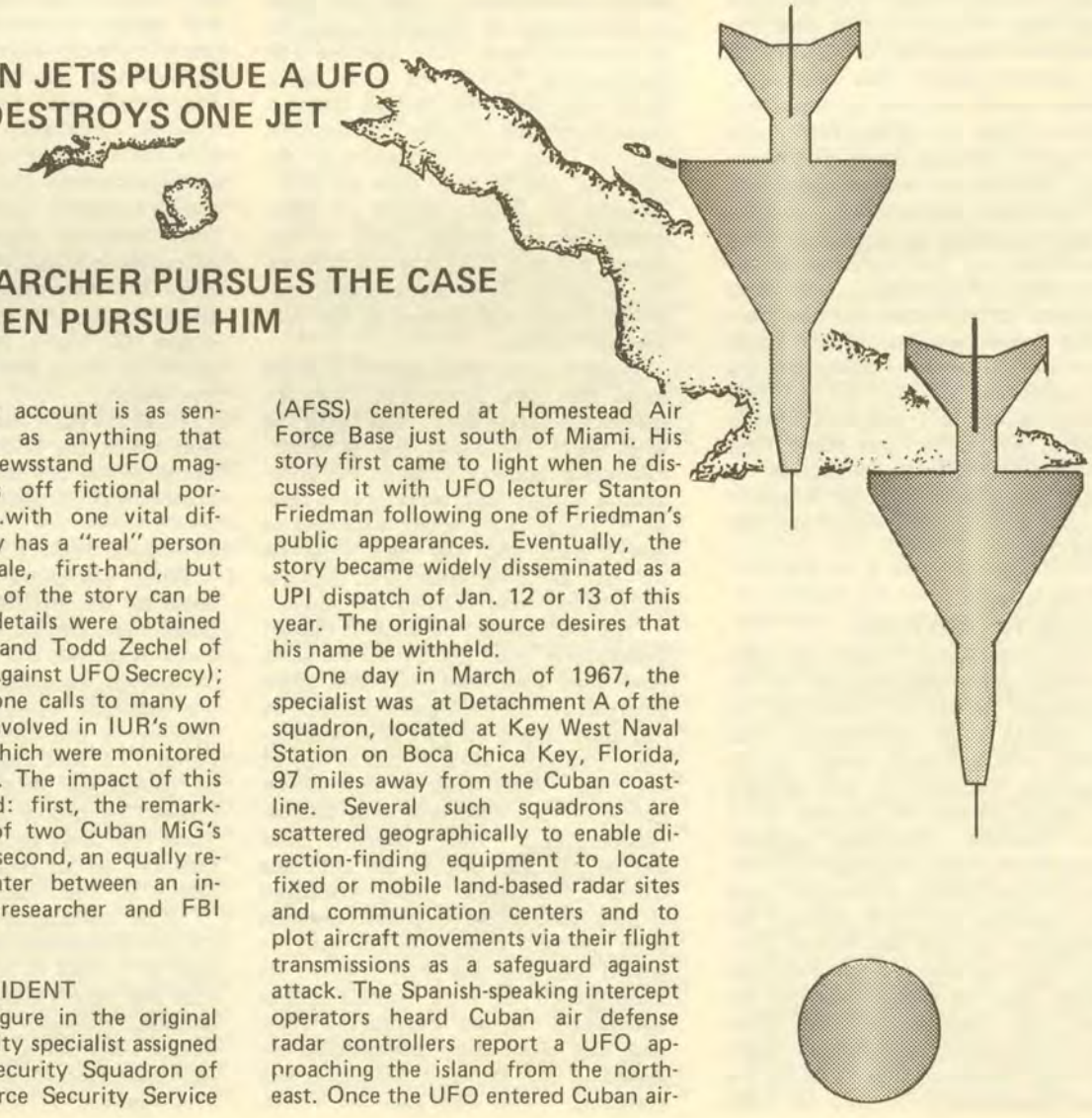
## UFO IMPACT: GOVERNMENT/MILITARY

### 1967:

### TWO CUBAN JETS PURSUE A UFO
### THE UFO DESTROYS ONE JET

### 1978:

### ONE RESEARCHER PURSUES THE CASE
### TWO FBI MEN PURSUE HIM



The following account is as sensational-sounding as anything that appears in the newsstand UFO magazines that pass off fictional portrayals as fact...with one vital difference. Not only has a "real" person provided the tale, first-hand, but certain elements of the story can be confirmed. The details were obtained by Brad Sparks and Todd Zechel of CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy); Zechel made phone calls to many of the individuals involved in IUR's own office, most of which were monitored by Allan Hendry. The impact of this event is two-fold: first, the remarkable encounter of two Cuban MiG's with a UFO and second, an equally remarkable encounter between an industrious UFO researcher and FBI agents.

THE CUBAN INCIDENT

The central figure in the original event was a security specialist assigned to the 6947th Security Squadron of the U.S. Air Force Security Service (AFSS) centered at Homestead Air Force Base just south of Miami. His story first came to light when he discussed it with UFO lecturer Stanton Friedman following one of Friedman's public appearances. Eventually, the story became widely disseminated as a UPI dispatch of Jan. 12 or 13 of this year. The original source desires that his name be withheld.

One day in March of 1967, the specialist was at Detachment A of the squadron, located at Key West Naval Station on Boca Chica Key, Florida, 97 miles away from the Cuban coastline. Several such squadrons are scattered geographically to enable direction-finding equipment to locate fixed or mobile land-based radar sites and communication centers and to plot aircraft movements via their flight transmissions as a safeguard against attack. The Spanish-speaking intercept operators heard Cuban air defense radar controllers report a UFO approaching the island from the northeast. Once the UFO entered Cuban air-

space (660 m.p.h. at 33,000 feet), two MiG-21 jet fighters were scrambled to meet it. Guided by ground radar to within three miles of the "bogey", the pilots could visually resolve it as a bright metallic sphere with no markings or appendages. Radio contact attempts proved fruitless, so the flight leader was ordered by Cuban Air Defense Headquarters to destroy the object. The leader reported that his radar was locked on the UFO and his missiles were armed.

Within seconds, the wingman screamed to the ground controllers that the flight leader's jet had exploded. Regaining his composure, he reported there was no smoke or flame, that his leader's MiG-21 had disintegrated. The Cuban radar operators watched the UFO rapidly accelerate and climb to above 100,000 feet. It was later tracked heading south-southeast toward South America.

The AFSS unit was under NSA (National Security Agency) operational control so an Intelligence Spot Report was sent to NSA, a standard practice in cases of aircraft losses by hostile nations. When the 6947th's Detachment A did not receive the mandatory receipt for its dispatch, it sent another report. This time, they received orders to ship all tapes and pertinent data to NSA. They were also told to list the cause of the aircraft's destruction in their own files as "equipment malfunction". Fifteen to twenty people were said to have been aware of the incident at the detachment. Presumably, the data forwarded to NSA included direction-finding measurements which could potentially be used to triangulate the jets' positions. If the AFSS radar tracking equipment was sufficiently sensitive, the UFO itself *could* have been tracked by its reflection of Cuban radar waves. It is not known if our own U.S. radar tracked the jets or the UFO.

## THE INQUIRY – ELEVEN YEARS LATER

Researcher Robert Todd, 24, who has made numerous inquiries to the government on UFOs in the past via the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), was not made aware of this remarkable incident by the January UPI news release. He learned of it from *National Enquirer* reporter Robert Pratt. Pratt obtained the information from Stanton Friedman. Todd sent a number of FOIA requests for information to the Air Force, CIA, NSA, and the Navy from February through July, all without success. On March 10, however, the CIA information and privacy coordinator, Gene F. Wilson, suggested that Todd try the Cuban government! On July 14, Todd gave both NSA and the Air Force fair warning that he was going to do just that. Concerned that some of this information might contain classified data, he gave them twenty days to "provide advice as to what information in the attached statement should not be transmitted to the Cuban government."

In response, Todd says, two FBI agents appeared at Todd's parents' home in Ardmore, Pennsylvania and interrogated him about his letter to NSA for an hour. The meeting took place around 6 PM on July 28. The men showed Todd FBI identification but Todd never got their names. Todd signed a paper acknowledging that he had been read his rights; he waived his right to silence – "I didn't have anything to hide." Todd said the men tried to intimidate him by reading the espionage laws; Todd interrupted them, saying he was familiar with them. One agent said the laws carry a penalty of life in prison or death, and both men hinted at the possibility of indictments. "It was just shocking," Todd said. He was asked if he had ever written to a foreign government. Todd told them he had written to the Soviet Union on an innocent basis. Why was the FBI investigating Todd? The older agent noted that NSA has no law enforcement functions. Sitting on opposite sides of Todd, "one of them took the hard line, one of them took the soft." Pressing for Todd's source of information on the matter, Todd "broke down" and told them it was Bob Pratt. He withheld Friedman's name, unaware that it was quoted in the January UPI release.

Robert Todd asked questions of his own. Was any information in the specialist's statement classified? At what level? The older "granite faced" FBI agent replied, "some of the information is classified. Most of it is bullshit." The younger agent, who said he was a pilot and had seen what he thought to be his own UFO, said the information was "Secret or above".

The FBI wanted to know if Robert Todd knew Todd Zechel. At the same time that Todd had requested more information on the Cuban incident, he had asked about the past NSA employment of Zechel. He enclosed a copy of the May, 1978 issue of IUR which contained an interview with Zechel. Robert Todd now clarified that Zechel had nothing to do with the Cuban information. Todd wondered if they had tapped his phone; the men only smiled. Todd asserted that he would demand the FBI file on its investigation of him. Ironically, the agents said that the information Todd had just given them couldn't be released in that fashion "because it was classified." The FBI said his investigation would be captioned under "Counterespionage"."

On the way out, the agents assured Todd's mother that her son was not in any trouble, that he was the "man on the end of a string".

## FURTHER INQUIRIES

The next person Todd says he heard from was Air Force Maj. Gordon Finley, Chief of the Torts and Freedom of Information Branch, Air Force Judge Advocate General's Office, on Aug. 4, about 4 to 4:30 PM. Todd said he told him he was calling because it was the last day of that 20-day limit Todd imposed in his request for information. Finley said the statement on the Cuban information "if true," included classified information. Todd related, "He asked me how many copies of the statement I had, and I asked him why he wanted to know." Finley then told Todd to seal all copies of the statement in an envelope, that "someone" may come by to pick it up. Todd said he refused. When Finley seemed reluctant to tell Todd what the classification of the information was, Todd quoted the FBI agent's assessment of "Secret or above"; Finley thought that sounded right. Finley also noted that the Air Force had given his letter a lot of thought, that they would probably turn the matter over to an investigative agency and Todd might be contacted by some intelligence agencies. Todd tried to argue that the UPI dissemination had "compromised totally" the information, but Finley rejoindered that he wasn't qualified to debate that point, that the Air Force would be doing just that in the next few weeks.

Finally, Todd said to Finley he would lock the Cuban incident statements in his file cabinet and Finley thanked him for that.

## OFFICIAL POSITIONS?

What warranted this intense interest by the Air Force, the FBI and NSA? Was Robert Todd telling the truth? If so, was this material classified because of the UFO incident itself or the sensitive nature of the AFSS mission in the Florida Keys? Allan Hendry of IUR reached Maj. Finley by phone on Aug. 8 and he confirmed his phone conversation with Todd four days prior! Finley refused, however, to be pinned down on the nature of the report's classification.

Other comments were provided to the CAUS members as follows:

July 31 - Paul B. Lorenzetti, spokesman for the Philadelphia FBI field division; "I'm not aware of anything (about the Todd investigation). I'm not cleared to gain information in such investigation...I have very little

contact with the security end of anything."

•John Perks, FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C.: "I don't have any knowledge of this...we're going to have to check."

•Tom Call, same as above (later in the day): "We never confirm who we've talked to or who we haven't talked to...We never do that."

•Charles Sullivan, NSA spokesman, Ft. Meade, MD: "If the FBI is involved...and I'm only knowledgable of that because you have said so... I'm not going to be responsive to you at all. You are not going to get anything from any government agency about another government agency. It is tough enough knowing what goes on in my own agency."

Aug. 1 - Roger Midkiff, Philadelphia FBI: (instructed by Lorenzetti that if there is a pending investigation, he is not to make a comment, as dictated by the Attorney General's guidelines) Refused to comment on the investigation. He did ask Brad Sparks for his name and phone number when he spoke to him. (Robert Todd later learned that Midkiff was one of the two agents who interviewed him.)

So what is the source of Air Force/NSA/FBI interest in an eleven-year old UFO case? Why didn't these agencies simply indulge in the luxury of denying that the jet's destruction was caused by anything but "equipment malfunction"? Finally, as Robert Todd has told IUR, if the event didn't happen as the specialist claims, there is nothing classified about NSA acknowledging this. Instead, all agencies continue to assert that "if" the incident happened, it would be classified; yet if the UFO event *didn't* happen, the public has a right to know that. Any new developments in this rather "overt" government investigation will be reported by IUR. In the meantime, we wish to extend our encouragement to Robert Todd for the rough treatment he endured...simply for taking up a suggestion of the CIA!

## IFO POLICY CHANGE

Perhaps more than any other UFO publication, IUR has stressed the role of the IFO (Identified Flying Object) problem in the total UFO scheme. The reasons are manifold: comprehensive examination of each and every case that has come to our attention thus far has confidently demonstrated that IFOs, primarily stars, aircraft, ad planes and meteors, account for 90% of the UFO phenemenon by *number,* making them important for that reason alone. Furthermore, any examination of the worthy UFO reports in the absence of the IFO reports deprives one of a sense of context and perspective. Hence, IUR has kept close tabs on the "non-glamorous" Identifieds, and as a result, we have become aware of the repetition of certain patterns and features. One obvious trend is the monthly listing of IFO types and quantities as appears in the "Profile" feature on the back page of each issue. With no novel changes in the IFO monthly listings in 1978, IUR has effectively made its point about the priorities and proportions of IFO types. Compare the IFO profile for the first six months of 1978 with the same period in the first half of 1977:

| | 1977 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|
| STARS | 116 | 127 |
| AIRCRAFT | 75 | 123 |
| AD PLANES | 99 | 87 |
| METEORS | 45 | 54 |
| BALLOONS | 13 | 8 |
| SATELLITES | 6 | 10 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 43 | 43 |
| TOTAL IFOs | 397 | 452 |
| IFO % OF ALL IUR SIGHTINGS | 88.0% | 92.8% |

The only ambivalence of note was the reversal of "ad planes" and "aircraft". When the rest of 1977 is considered, the ad planes confidently assume second place status again. Thus, the nature of the IFO content appears to be established:

- Nine out of ten raw reports can be confidently ascribed to descriptions based on natural or man-made phenomena.
- Eight out of ten IFO reports are attributable to only four types of objects: stars, ad planes, planes and meteors (in order).

Even the patterns of UFO and IFO appearances on the U.S. maps for small monthly samples have settled in. IFO sightings and distant, poorly-seen UFO sightings such as NLs and DDs tend to cluster around regions of greatest population density in the U.S. More exotic "Close Encounter" events tend to manifest themselves in more rural, non-populated areas as a rule. Still, it is of value to monitor possible trends in the monthly locations and amounts of such sightings, so IUR will now provide *two* U.S. maps - one detailing UFO/IFO positions for the month in question, and one showing the accumulated UFO plots only for that year so far, the current month inclusive. UFO types will be plotted directly on that map as well with small codes.

One *caveat* about the value of any statistical efforts based on IUR's own input; we are flattered that many foreign UFO journals and American news sources adopted our statistical review of 1977 as if it were a hard total statement of the U.S. UFO phenomenon for that year. Proper perspective demands, however, that a few points be kept in mind. First, despite the acquisition of 1000 current cases a year, even we are still only scratching the surface of UFO sightings in the U.S. A survey taken in the sixties showed that only 13% of all Americans who felt they had seen a UFO had tried reporting it to someone other than families and friends. Nor is the U.S. sampling necessarily a random one; the monthly maps show that the state with the most sightings is always the one in which we are headquartered. Yet there are many other UFO groups and individuals in the U.S. attempting to attract UFO witnesses to themselves as well. The map below shows sightings obtained by another civilian group, Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), located in Arizona. In this map, that state artificially becomes the most active one in the nation while Illinois suddenly takes a back seat. Thus, regional gaps in sightings created by such groups can

make certain states appear to be deficient in UFO events in IUR's maps when this is not necessarily the case. Third, no one can absolutely guarantee that a given UFO description leads to a *truly* anomalous event. The term "UFO" can only be bestowed meaningfully to a sighting description if it is judged to be such by qualified analysts. Thus, the quality of a UFO report is affected by such variables as the original witness (es) himself, the perceptually-available information on the UFO, supportive evidence and the investigation of the case. Finally, it must be recalled that IUR deals almost exclusively in current sightings, ones that can be followed-up completely, in real-time.

Such policy changes do not mean that IUR intends to shirk the clues latent in the identifiable reports. The most important insights are not to be gained at this stage by mere categorizations of IFO types, though, but through the use of such reports as indicators of general witness reliability, as was demonstrated in the 1977

article, "The Case for IFO Study". Indeed, the IFO reports are so rich in interesting perspectives that a complete analysis would be beyond the scope of any newsletter. One will be attempted in my forthcoming *UFO HANDBOOK* to be published by Doubleday in 1979. But IUR will continue to present any insights gained into the total UFO mystery from our solved cases in as meaningful a fashion as possible.

Allan Hendry

## CORRESPONDENCE

*IUR readers offered more comments on our July issue's article on the false "Men-in-Black" (MIB) case in Las Vegas than any other IUR article:*

I find your professional approach highly commendable for spilling the beans on this case. Regrettable, as it has been reported here that the MIB case in question here was created as a publicity-seeking idea, but it seems to have backfired and gone downhill for the concocters of this overly imaginative story. However, the UFO report might be valid as a sighting of a UFO; that is the only probable fact in this matter.

JOHN KYNISTON
Portland, OR

When the July issue arrived, I was most impressed to see the cautious and properly skeptical treatment of the cases you examine, especially the MIB fiasco. Except for the *Skeptical Inquirer* of our CSICP (Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal), yours seems to be perhaps the *only* magazine to devote at least as much space to IFOs as UFOs...

The way in which you "captured" Ray and Cathy Thomas in their own web of falsehood was a superb illustration of what is often the only way that a highly complex UFO incident can be critically investigated.

ROBERT SHEAFFER
Silver Spring, MD

I know you proved in case #3-7-13 that many lies were told; it's a shame that your valuable time and money were wasted but a thought struck me while reading the article -- in case of a true encounter, is it so far fetched to think that some kind of "mind control" was used to make the witness unbelievable?

MRS. THOMAS MARTIN
Glenford, OH

You were hoping to find out what "TLK" stood for in the Thomas case (#3-7-13) in the July issue of the *Reporter*. For an intriguing parallel, see Hynek's *The Hynek UFO Report*, pp. 209-210. There the letters "TLA" figure in a UFO report of 1966 in southern Oklahoma. But along with them were four digits, too: 4, 7 (or 1), 3, 8. In this 1966 case, the writing was seen on the side of the dome or the side of the craft (the context is not clear)., which is also parallel to the Thomas case. Moreover, the 1966 case also smacks of a top-secret aircraft situation.

Did the Thomases get their idea from Hynek's book? Or do we have some evidence of a real connection between parallel details of two sightings?

KENNETH SCHELLHASE
Marquette, MI

You did a nice job of sleuthing in this instance. The entire MIB fable has become a part of UFO lore - and, I think, regrettably so. There is nothing to it - it only reads good to the uninitiated. Personally, I think the matter should be dropped once and for all...Your article initially states that the two "Air Force" personnel were dressed one in black, and the other in maroon. Thus, why couldn't the men be called "Men in Maroon"?

BILL PITTS
Ft. Smith, AS

*Mr. Pitts, a veteran UFO investigator, is being tongue-in-cheek. The MIB have always been more distinctive for their intimidating actions than their clothing, including previous tales of "Air Force" officers in full uniform who have allegedly confiscated such films in the past...only for the witness to discover there was no such person within the Air Force.*

Congratulations on another excellent issue, especially the thorough coverage of the Ray Thomas hoax.

DONALD JOHNSON
Kirkland, WA

I noted your invitation for comments on the case #3-7-13 (IUR Takes On Its First "Men in Black" Case and "Wins" One) article so I decided to write. I thought the article was very suspenseful. Mainly, I am very glad the investigators at the Center for UFO Studies go through all that trouble to check out the cases because someday they're going to discover what UFOs are and where they come from.

JIM JANUS
Niles, IL

*Not all of IUR's respondents were as complimentary about the Las Vegas MIB writeup. Two seperate individuals used the same choice of words when they expressed distaste about IUR chronicling the details of "solved mysteries". Would these feelings have persisted if we had "solved" the case to be, say, "extraterrestrial intervention"? With no axes to grind, IUR will tackle any UFO reports until a satisfying conclusion can be found. In truth, we have not really "solved" the Las Vegas case, as we can not provide a reason for the Thomas's behavior... or even if a UFO sighting played any role whatsoever in getting the ball rolling. As researcher Jacques Vallee has commented, case #3-7-13 is still a "crime without a motive".*

*As for our new format ideas introduced in the July issue:*

IUR's new format is, in my opinion, a very positive step. While people may disagree about UFOs, the reality of "UFO impact" no one can deny. I personally expect that while science will ultimately get absolutely nothing of value from any study of UFOs, there is indeed material of enormous benefit to psychology and sociology in the UFO realm. Such studies are to be encouraged.

ROBERT SHEAFFER
Silver Springs, MD

I am totally in agreement with your wider approach to the UFO phenomenon as outlined in the July issue of your editorial. The idea of seeking an explanation based solely on the assumption that UFOs are merely *space craft* produced and operated by a technologically more advanced society than ours is, of course, too narrow a view, even though this may well be a part of the solution. With the rapidly advancing understanding we are gaining about a universe that is multidimensional and *becoming* (that is, not static), a wider approach to *all* phenomena around us that make life so exciting (including the UFO "mystery") is strongly advocated. I therefore commend you for taking the first step in this direction.

ALF CARLSON
Burnaby, B.C., Canada

The expanded newsletter format is most appreciated and is consistently interesting. Your efforts deserve applause. Keep up the excellent work.

THOMAS BURCH
Poolesville, MD

Have just received and read the latest issue of IUR (july 1978), and want to write to congratulate you on the new format. The IUR improves with age (as I have noted while cataloguing the back issues)!

TOM LIND
Gloucester, MA

## THE SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO LANDING - ADDITIONAL WITNESSES?

One of the most celebrated American UFO landings was the story of police officer Lonnie Zamora of Socorro, New Mexico who broke off chasing a speeder on April 24, 1964 at 5:45 PM to investigate a bright flash of light off to the southwest. Instead of finding a blown-up dynamite shack, Zamora saw a white, egg-shaped craft sitting on the rocky ground at the bottom of a shallow gully. An unusual insignia was seen on the side of the craft, and standing nearby were two men in white coveralls. When Zamora attempted to get closer to the UFO, the object flamed off with a roar to the southwest, just clearing the mountains. Irregularly placed imprints in the ground and some burned vegetation were the only signs of evidence that Zamora was telling the truth...for he was the only witness on record.

*Lonnie Zamora in the summer of 1975 revisiting the site of the alleged landing of an oval UFO with two occupants in 1964.*

More recently, the director of Austin, Texas' Project Starlight International, Ray Stanford, authored a book on the incident, *Socorro Saucer in a Pentagon Pantry*, which asserted that there were two other witnesses from Dubuque, Iowa who also saw the Socorro UFO. Stanford's source was an article from the Dubuque Herald, published five days after the event. The names of the witnesses, Paul Kies and Larry Kratzer, were provided in the article as well as their a addresses (!) yet Stanford had not attempted to contact the men. Iowa UFO researcher Ralph DeGraw, well-known to IUR readers for his valuable assistance in two previous Iowa EM interference cases, succeeded in reaching the two men in his home state and (with the help of Pat Crowley) interviewed them seperately last May. The full details of the interviews were printed in the September edition of DeGraw's Private UFO investigations (PUFOI) publication, the UFO EXAMINER*. In brief, the men do appear to have been present in the approximate location and time to have observed Zamora's UFO, but there are seemingly striking discrepancies between the men's testimonies, as well as between their joint claim and Zamora's:

- Kratzer said he saw an oblong shape, possibly like an egg, with a red insignia...just like Zamora. Yet the insignia looks quite different and Kratzer places four portholes on the side. Kies, riding in the same car, claimed that the object was far too distant to make out a definite shape, let alone any details.
- Kies said the object was initially on the ground. Kratzer placed it 1000 feet up.
- Zamora had the UFO rise only 10 or 15 feet up, and then fly horizontally gaining altitude very slowly. No smoke was seen by him to leave the object. Kratzer had the object emit black smoke and rise vertically out of a cloud of black smoke, level off, and *then* fly horizontally to the southwest. Zamora did see dust get kicked up at first, but the sand there was light brown. Kies only claims to have watched a brief shiny "reflection" in the smoke *on the ground.*

Do these discrepancies, contained in accounts obtained fourteen years after the fact, disqualify the men as valid witnesses to Zamora's sighting? As DeGraw asks, if they didn't see the Socorro UFO, what *did* they see?

Interestingly, Kratzer told a gas station attendant in Socorro about his unusual sighting. He did not acknowledge seeing Zamora's cruiser; in fact, the attendant himself told the men about the Socorro officer's own sighting on the radio. Could Kratzer thus be the mysterious unnamed "second witness" whom, the Socorro legend has it, discussed his sighting of "Zamora's" UFO...a witness whom Dr. Hynek wanted the Air Force to seek out back in 1964?

* Interested readers may acquire the UFO Examiner by writing to Private UFO Investigations, Rt. 1, Hazleton, IA. Single copies are $1.25 and a yearly subscription (4 issues) is $4.00. The Examiner is an excellent general UFO publication with emphasis on Iowa sightings.

UFOLOGY AND RATIONALITY by Robert Morrell; UFO Research Review, Summer 1978, page 8.

I find myself unhappy when I see ufology being related to folklore. It is perhaps forgotten too readily that folklore is itself a science and not the preserve of romantic-eyed individuals. Students of folklore no longer visualize fairy realms as a magic-like parallel society to our own but see such tales in terms of folk memories modified over long periods of time. Frequently such tales combine a variety of material which on analysis is found to have been drawn together from a wide number of sources, and married, sometimes, with strange results. As human society is similar in basics throughout the world, the now discredited diffusionist theory would treat this differently although even if true would not modify this point greatly; we can expect similar folk tales.

### HUMCAT UPDATE

UFO researchers Ted Bloecher and David Webb are the co-chairmen of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Humanoid Study Group, which files details of all available CE III sighting reports. Their Humanoid Catalog—or "HumCat" for short—now contains over 1650 entries. These humanoid sightings break down into eight sub-groups developed by Bloecher as follows:

A—UFO plus occupant inside—17%
B—UFOnaut enters or leaves UFO—26%
C—UFOnaut and UFO seen separately—17%
D—Creature seen in area of "general UFO activity"—7%
E—Creature only; no UFO seen or implied—16%
F—Voices are heard, no UFO seen—2%
G—Abduction of witness by UFO—10%
None of the above—5%

Of the 161 abduction cases in HumCat, 75—or 46%—have taken place since 1970 alone. Sightings in HumCat are obtained from sources all over the world. All figures are courtesy of David Webb; publication of HumCat is expected in the near future.

# PROFILE: JULY, 1978

*UFOS & IFOS THIS MONTH*

*TOTAL UFOS THIS YEAR*

UFOs include 3-8-80, -81, -99, -129, 3-9-19, -28, -59, -65, and -66. Verifications and complete details on these cases are on file and available on request.

**UFOs:**

| | |
|---|---|
| NL | 3 |
| DD | 4 |
| CE I | 1 |
| CE II | 2 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Number of Reports | 168 |
| Average per Day | 5.4 |
| Peak Activity (14 cases) | 7/4 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Total Number of UFOs | 10 |
| Total Number of IFOs | 158 |

**UFOs:** 6% **IFOs:** 94%

**IT'S JU-U-UNE IN JANUARY, WHEN YOU'RE IN LOVE....**

....as the song goes, and so goes it (almost) with IUR as discussed last issue. However, with a special *double* issue for October/November immediately around the corner featuring the most complete coverage available on the speeches of Hynek, Vallee and Coyne, IUR is wrapping up its "catch up" procedures. Stay tuned for the report on the CE III case #3-8-21 (pending from last issue), followup on the Ocala, FL radar-visual case and the details on the Ludington/Two Rivers Coast Guard case....

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EDITORIAL (from p. 1)

and of course, continue to publish the map. Should anyone in the future -- some sociologist perhaps -- wish to study IFOs for their own sake (and much can be learned from IFOs about human behavior, the desire to believe, and wishful thinking) the material will be here in the files.

We will still be certain that IFOs are indeed IFOs. Our desire is not deliberately to make an IFO out of a UFO, but to make sure that it is a UFO -- which, by definition, is simply "any aerial or surface sighting (or instrumental recording) that *remains* unidentified even after competent study by qualified persons". It is these "stars" on our map which will continue to be a very real challenge to science.

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